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Vancouver metro

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THE PANAMA PAPERS
CRACKDOWN *in* CANADA
metroNEWS

THE IMPOSSIBLE RACE

Vancouver man comes agonizingly close to finishing one of the world's toughest (and most quirky) races metroNEWS

Gary Robbins climbs a hill during the 60-hour, 160-kilometre Barkley Marathons last week in Tennessee. COURTESY KEITH KNIPLING

Straw saga reaches city

ENVIRONMENT

Non-profit that urged Tofino to ban plastics eyes Vancouver

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

First Tofino, now Vancouver.

The environmental non-profit that persuaded businesses of the Vancouver Island beach town to do away with single-use disposable plastic items, such as straws and take-out containers, is turning its attention to the mainland.

The Vancouver chapter of the Surfrider Foundation says it is encouraging local businesses to either phase out needless non-biodegradable plastics or at least switch to a policy that requires customers to request them.

"My local grocery store carries paper bags that, even if they end up in a landfill, will break down very fast. But even then, I notice (staff) reach for the plastic bags by default," said Vancouver chapter chairman Matthew Unger. "Plastics by their design are made to last thousands of years, but then you have all these products that are made to be used once and then they're discarded. It's flawed."

Last week, Surfrider announced the majority of small businesses in Tofino had signed on to go plastic-straw-free as part of its "Straws Suck" campaign launched in March.

The campaign was born out of a desire to do something about the estimated 20 million tonnes of plastic litter that pollutes the ocean each year.

Unger said the Vancouver campaign will also focus on the business community and that it hopes to pick up steam by promoting shops that have made the switch through social media.

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Fireworks accident at temple in India kills more than 100. **World**

Friends vie for unbeatable deals in upcoming series

TELEVISION

Garage Sale Diaries follows adventures of North Van duo

Tereza Verenca
For Metro | Vancouver

Kelly Riegler, left, and Renee Camazzola will bring their Garage Sale Diaries web series to Telus Optik TV next month. CONTRIBUTED

Ever wondered what unique treasures garage-sale-goers find during their weekend hunts?

North Vancouver friends Kelly Riegler and Renee Camazzola definitely have an idea or two. Last year, the pair hit up 134 garage sales across the Lower Mainland in a span of two weeks for their web series-turned-television series, Garage Sale Diaries, coming to Telus Optik TV next month.

The idea for the show came one evening in 2010 after a couple of bottles of wine. Riegler was telling friend and show creator Scott Reynolds that nothing about garage sales was on the tube. It was a topic close to her heart because she had grown up on secondhand items.

"After travelling in my early 20s, I came back, had a part-time job and an apartment, but I didn't have a lot of money, so my mom would take me garage sale-ing and I would decorate my apartment for next to nothing," she told Metro.

The two partnered up and starting filming (Camazzola came on as a cast member a couple years later).

Some of Riegler's most valuable finds includes a Chanel watch she scooped up for $15. It was appraised at $5,600.

"It's in amazing condition, it just needed a new battery," she chuckled, adding finding a cool mug for 25 cents can be just as fun.

The demographic in the garage sale community has changed in the last few years, according to Riegler. It's no longer an event for the cash-strapped. From the girlfriends who make a weekend of it, to the families who are looking to start up their new home, that stereotype no longer exists, she said.

"You just have to look at the cars that pull up. It's everything from a $1,500 beater right through to the $70,000 Lexus or BMW. It's gone mainstream," added Reynolds. "People are looking for items these days that can't just be bought in a store."

It is those stories — the raw, unscripted and organic conversations between the seller and the bargain hunter — that make the show what it is, he said.

"Thrifting," meanwhile, has become a pastime for many because of the high cost of living in the Lower Mainland, according to the show producer. He said people are also more mindful of what items they're sending to the landfill.

For Riegler, no garage sale is the same. "It's a weekend treasure hunt. You're just going out looking for stuff that you don't know you're going to find. And that makes it exciting," she said.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Scientists working on smart concrete

Scientists at the University of Victoria are working to cement their lead in making so-called smart concrete that heals and seals cracks, greatly reducing potential infrastructure disasters and extending lifespans of buildings and structures.

Civil-engineering professor Rishi Gupta says his department is conducting research to develop material combinations that produce long-lasting, crack-free concrete and mixtures that can heal cracks.

"In my world we talk about concrete, and concrete is the world's most used construction material," he said at a recent display of his research at the British Columbia legislature.

He said the focus of his facility is to come up with a variety of mixtures that allow for crack-free concrete.

"If (the concrete) does decide to crack we are actually coming up with systems which are smart and have the ability to heal themselves."

Gupta said his research has two primary areas of focus: making concrete crack-free, and monitoring the lifespan of infrastructure built with concrete.

"We are working with fibres that actually go into concrete," he said. "B.C. is one of the leaders in fibre-reinforced concrete."

Gupta said his department is testing the healing and sealing abilities of concrete as varying amounts of fibres are added to such as industrial waste like fly ash and wood cellulose.

"We actually have a patent that was very recently approved and we have the only technique in the world that can be used to measure how fast systems like these can seal themselves," he said. "We are able to predict what the life of concrete would be."

Gupta said the mixtures work on cracks and extend the life of concrete, which also benefits the environment.

"Concrete is associated with not being very sustainable because every tonne of cement produces about a tonne of carbon dioxide," he said. "If you can make your structure last longer, you've actually made the material more sustainable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SURREY

Shootings prompt more surveillance

The mayor of Surrey, where police have logged 31 shootings this year, has approved 24-hour police access to more than 400 closed-circuit cameras in an effort to stop the violence.

More RCMP resources and specialized teams are also being added in an effort to end the gunplay.

Mayor Linda Hepner told reporters Friday that the shootings have damaged the reputation of the city and she promises those involved will be caught.

"To the citizens of Surrey and the residents here, I want to tell you that progress has been made and we have made arrests," she said.

"What is really disheartening for me is that these individuals are smearing our community and our city."

RCMP Assistant Commissioner Dan Mallow said they've learned that those responsible are "kids" in a low-level dispute over drugs.

"But it's not one group that's driving around the city of Surrey and the Lower Mainland that is creating this situation."

He added that the problem isn't just in Surrey, but in Metro Vancouver as well.

One person has been killed and several have been injured, and residents have a right to be concerned, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LOTTERY

Winning ticket for $50M jackpot sold in Kelowna

There is one winning ticket for the $50-million jackpot in Friday night's Lotto Max draw — and it was sold in Kelowna.

On March 18, a $60-million Lotto Max jackpot was won by a Toronto ticket holder.

The British Columbia Lottery Corporation says the Kelowna store where the ticket was purchased will be announced after the winner has come forward to claim their prize.

The corporation says this is the second big lottery win in Kelowna in 2016 after a resident won $21.9 million in the Feb. 20 Lotto 6/49 draw.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

No charges for man accused by 4 women

Sexual-assault charges will not be filed against a man who police arrested after complaints from four students at the University of Victoria.

B.C.'s Criminal Justice Branch says a report was reviewed by senior prosecutors who concluded the allegations didn't meet its charge assessment standard.

Saanich police had recommended last month that an unnamed male student face sexual-assault charges.

The branch says in a news release that prosecutors have to be aware of the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt and the credibility or reliability of witnesses. It says it has a policy specific to sexual-assault allegations, recognizing that where the evidence test has been met, it is generally in the public interest to prosecute.

The allegations were the third sex-assault complaint investigated at the university since September, though police have said they don't think they are linked.

In the case of the four women who came forward, the Criminal Justice Branch says: "On the available evidence, there is no substantial likelihood of conviction."

It says in such cases, the Crown must be able to prove there was sexual contact and an absence of consent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province investigating real-estate brokerage

PROPERTY

New Coast Realty accused of violating regulations

The Real Estate Council of British Columbia has issued licence conditions to a Vancouver-area brokerage under investigation for alleged violations of the province's real estate-regulations.

The council says New Coast Realty has agreed to the conditions, which include the appointment of a managing broker approved by the council to conduct all training sessions and licensee supervision.

"In order to ensure the brokerage complies with the Real Estate Services Act, the council has imposed a number of licence conditions that will establish appropriate oversight," it says in a statement.

The statement says allegations in an article that appears in Saturday's Globe and Mail have been "a matter of serious concern" for a number of weeks.

As soon as the council was informed by the Globe of a tape recording containing statements of "potentially serious violations" of the act, the council says it launched an investigation, though the newspaper did not provide the recording.

Earlier this week, the council says it met with the owner and legal counsel of New Coast Realty, who provided a tape recording that was reviewed by investigators.

New Coast Realty, based in Richmond, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The council says the brokerage is co-operating with the investigation.

A Metro Vancouver real-estate broker is under investigation for alleged violations of B.C.'s real-estate regulations. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> The conditions ... will ensure ... that the appropriate controls and oversight will be in place.
> Robert Fawcett

The council's statement, which is dated Friday, says the conditions include that the managing broker must submit monthly reports on any in-house transactions, trust accounts, transactions involving licensees personally, activities of unlicensed assistants and any complaints.

The council will also hold approval of account-signing authorities and require New Coast Realty to provide trade records relating to assignments and commission bonuses. The brokerage must also keep copies of all offers received for properties for inspection by the council.

The council will conduct quarterly audits of New Coast Realty. If it finds non-compliance with the conditions or any other aspects of the act, the council says it will take further action.

"There are a significant number of buyers and sellers with transactions in progress at the brokerage. Those consumers have contractual obligations that they must meet, and the council does not wish to impede the transactions," said Robert Fawcett, executive officer of the council.

"The conditions that have been agreed to with the brokerage will ensure that those transactions are able to proceed, and that the appropriate controls and oversight will be in place."

Any consumers with concerns about transactions at New Coast Realty are asked to contact the council.

The council, which is responsible for overseeing and disciplining real estate agents in B.C., is also awaiting the results of an independent advisory group's probe into standards of conduct for real-estate licensees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALLEGATIONS

The investigation was announced in February in response to allegations that some realtors were exploiting an assignment clause in contracts that allowed them to repeatedly sell properties, driving up prices and inflating commissions.

IN BRIEF

Mayor Robertson faces criticism over spending

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson is under fire from political opponents for doubling the spending from his discretionary fund in one year.

With a total bill of $264,137, the mayor spent twice as much in 2015 than the $129,346 spent in 2014, according to Freedom of Information documents first released to journalist Bob Mackin.

The notable increase included major trips to the Vatican to meet the pope, the White House and to Paris for the United Nations Climate Summit.

But the bulk of the spending ($174,321) went to consultants, many who have ties to the mayor's political party Vision Vancouver.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

First B.C. wildfire of year found west of Quesnel

Crews are battling British Columbia's first significant wildfire of the year.

The B.C. Wildfire Service says a fire has been discovered about 90 kilometres west of Quesnel.

The blaze is about 1,000 hectares in size.

The Wildfire Service says firefighters and heavy equipment are on site and more resources are en route.

Fire information officer Ryan Turcot says this is the first large fire crews have faced in 2016.

Nearly 3,000 square kilometres of B.C. woodland burned during the 2015 fire season, costing the province almost $300 million.

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City calls on cyclists to weigh in on bike stations

TRANSPORTATION

Vancouver seeking public input on placement

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Speak up now if you want a public bike share station outside your favourite coffee shop, office or front door.

The City of Vancouver is seeking public input on where to place the first 100 stations for the 1,000 bikes that will hit the streets when the public bike share (finally) launches this summer.

People can visit the city's website and drop a pin to suggest a station location in the initial service area on the downtown peninsula, bounded by Arbutus Street, Main Street and 16th Avenue.

Stations will be placed every two to three blocks and will be located near popular working, shopping and recreational destinations, according to the city.

The system features "smart bikes" by CycleHop with individual, waterproof computer systems. The bikes have built-in cables that allow users to lock them around the city. It is not clear how much it will cost.

Josh Squire, CEO of CycleHop, displays one of the bikes that will be used in the initiative. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO FILE

The city selected Ottawa-based CycleHop to operate the bike share system nearly eight years after it first promised residents a bike share.

Problems with its previous supplier — Bixi went bankrupt and Alta (now called Motivate) was bought out — caused the delay, which ultimately will provide the city with higher-tech bikes for less money. (The city will pay CycleHop $5 million over five years as opposed to $6 million under the previous scheme.)

The city hopes public bike share will fill gaps in the existing transportation network and encourage people to get around without driving.

> **Public bike share will be a big boost for (Vancouver).**
> Mayor Gregor Robertson

"Public bike share will be a big boost for Vancouver's active transportation system," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a statement.

Visit vancouverbikeshare.ca to recommend a station.

SEX OFFENDER

Police arrest high risk suspect

Vancouver Police arrested a high-risk sex offender early Saturday morning after he allegedly breached his long-term supervision order.

According to police, 45-year-old Jason White is a person of interest in an attempted home invasion of an elderly woman in the city's Oakridge neighbourhood.

Const. Brian Montague asked for the public's help on Friday night as officers attempted to locate and arrest White on a Canada-wide warrant for breaching his supervision order.

Montague said White is a convicted sex offender who was deemed a dangerous offender after being found guilty of breaking into the Nanaimo home of a 74-year-old woman, sexually assaulting and robbing her, in 1994.

He said White appealed the dangerous-offender designation and was eventually released on a long-term supervision order.

Police say he was arrested at around 3:30 a.m. Saturday on the University of British Columbia (UBC) campus, but it's unclear why he was there.

Just hours earlier, thousands of students had attended a year-end block party on campus.

Montague said police did a preliminary search of the site when he was arrested and brought in a search and canvass team later Saturday to do a more thorough job.

"Why he was at UBC will be part of the ongoing investigation," Montague said in an email. "We will be having a close look at White's activity over the past few days, weeks and months.

The university's RCMP detachment did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The campus has seen a series of "night prowler" events where a man was seen lurking in bathrooms and bedrooms at UBC residences, and a sexual assault of a 20-year-old woman last month.

The description of the suspect in those incidents was of a man in his mid- to late-20s with dark skin.

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> **We will be having a close look at White's activity.**
> Const. Brian Montague

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OPINION

Majority want Uber regulated, says poll

Metro Vancouverites don't want the region to be the Wild West when it comes to Uber and other ridesharing services, according to a poll conducted for the Vancouver Taxi Association.

Two-thirds of Metro Vancouverites (67 per cent) believe the government should impose the same regulations the taxi industry operates under on rideshare companies that connect passengers with drivers via smartphone applications, according to the Ipsos online poll of 800 residents.

800
Number of those polled

One in five (21 per cent) think the government should loosen up and regulate Uber to a lesser extent than taxis and only six per cent say the government should forgo regulations altogether.

Regular safety inspections, police background checks and a mechanism to ensure drivers pay income tax were the three most popular regulations among residents, with all receiving more than 90 per cent support.

But other requirements including vehicle environmental standards, proper commercial insurance and a vehicle-for-hire licence also received support from over 80 per cent of residents.

Uber is moving towards provincial and municipal regulatory processes. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A long-awaited homecoming

PROPERTY

Three B.C. First Nations buy prime real estate

Three British Columbia First Nations have paid nearly half a billion dollars for a prime piece of real estate on the west side of Vancouver.

The Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations bought the 15.7-hectare parcel known as the Jericho Lands from the province for $480 million.

The First Nations said in a news release that the property overlooking Jericho Beach Park in the West Point Grey neighbourhood was once the site of a First Nations village.

> **Today we are, in a very literal sense, coming back to our homeland.**
> Chief Ian Campbell

Homes on the Jericho Lands, a 15.7-hectare parcel of land formerly owned by the Department of National Defence, photographed in Vancouver on Friday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"This is a celebration for all three nations," Squamish Nation Chief Ian Campbell said in a news release. "Today we are, in a very literal sense, coming back to our homeland."

The land has panoramic views of English Bay and the North Shore and is adjacent to a 21-hectare area acquired by the three First Nations and the Canada Lands Company from the federal government in 2014.

Any construction will meet City of Vancouver zoning plans, said Musqueam Chief Wayne Sparrow.

"We look forward to working with all of our partners, the communities and neighbours to ensure the best possible developments occur on these properties," he said.

The purchase creates the conditions for the First Nations to lead a meaningful consultation process about what should be done with the land, Vancouver-Quilchena MLA Andrew Wilkinson said in a release.

"Local residents will have the opportunity to provide their input on how they would like to see these lands developed for the greatest benefit of the community in the future," he said.

A release from the province said the final sales contract and two independent appraisals will be publicly released in the coming weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$480 million

The price the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations paid for the 15.7-hectare Jericho Lands parcel.

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HUDSON'S BAY

North Vancouver's **Gary Robbins** chugs back water during the Barkley Marathons in Frozen Head State Park in Tennessee last week. Robbins successfully completed 4.5 of the five loops that compose the overall marathon. KEITH KNIPLING/CONTRIBUTED

North Vancouver man vows to conquer notorious race

BARKLEY MARATHONS

Gary Robbins takes attempt at gruelling trek in stride

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Even after the sleep deprivation and a gruelling test of body and mind, North Vancouver's Gary Robbins is determined to return to the Barkley Marathons and do what only a handful of challengers have ever done in its history: finish the race.

Those accepted to run in the event don't receive a formal invitation per se; they receive a letter of condolence. And for good reason. Since the Barkley Marathons began in 1986, there have been only 14 finishers of the 100-mile, 60-hour race through the unforgiving terrain of Frozen Head State Park in Tennessee.

Robbins fell short of finishing, completing 4.5 of the five loops.

If he doesn't return to Tennessee in 2017 for another crack at the Barkley Marathons, he'll likely try to return in 2018.

"The fact I have to wait a year is killing me right now because you come so close," he told Metro.

For the vast majority of the race, which goes off trails and requires challengers to navigate their way with a map and compass, Robbins paired up with Jared Campbell.

Robbins explained that two laps are done clockwise and two laps done counterclockwise.

> **You go into it knowing the chance for failure is greater than anything else.** Gary Robbins

If multiple runners complete the four laps, they must then go in opposite directions for the fifth loop. He and Campbell, after working together for four loops, were forced to split.

For a historic third time, Campbell finished the Barkley.

Robbins admitted it was on the fifth loop that the sleep deprivation took its ultimate toll.

"I had been hallucinating for hours," he said.

"I was really trying to stay focused. I nailed the first book. The second book in my direction is really one of the more complex books to find. I focused and found that. I was feeling confident. For the third book, I took a bearing, triple-checked it, was following it and basically when I got to my high point, I wasn't where I should've been and in my delusional state, I thought I was too far north when I was too far south."

He ended up running circles in the forest for two-and-a-half hours.

Reality began sinking in that there was no recovering from this.

It ended with a ride back to the campground where it all began, as he detailed in a blog post, adding he had gone 90 hours without substantial sleep.

All 10 of his toes, as of over four days later, were still numb due to the duress his feet were under.

"I knew … it was going to be a completely new challenge," he said.

The notorious race comes with other oddities, too. A conch will sound an hour before the start of the race to inform runners they have one hour to prepare for the awaiting hell.

The Barkley may have conquered Robbins this time, but he believes that he will, in time, pay back the favour.

"You go into it knowing the chance of failure is greater than anything else," he said.

"But I now know more than ever that I can and will be a finisher as long as I can continue to head back and give it another shot."

Gary Robbins is interviewed at the Barkley Marathons. A documentary on the notorious race is available on Netflix.
KEITH KNIPLING/CONTRIBUTED

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Reckoning for tax cheats

FINANCE

Feds to release plan following Panama Papers revelations

Ottawa is stepping up its fight against offshore tax dodgers by putting "high-risk" taxpayers in the crosshairs, cracking down on the promotion of tax shelters and launching targeted probes of foreign tax havens.

National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier will unveil the initiatives at a news conference Monday morning.

The announcement follows daily revelations from the Panama Papers, detailing the extensive — and complex — moves by the wealthy to shelter wealth offshore.

The 11.5 million documents from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca comprise the largest journalistic leak in history, which has been analyzed and corroborated by journalists at over 100 news organizations around the world. The ensuing reports have implicated a dozen world leaders in offshore dealings, including Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmunder Gunnlaugsson, who resigned last week, and the U.K.'s David Cameron, who admitted to profiting from offshore investments.

Often such money is held in legitimate investments abroad. But other times, the wealth has been deliberately moved offshore to avoid taxes.

Echoing leaders on four continents who have called for a crackdown, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that the details in the Panama Papers underscore the need to act.

$444M

Amount of new funding the Liberals have earmarked in the March budget to go after tax evaders

"There is an increasing desire for transparency and accountability and making sure that everyone is participating to a fair degree," Trudeau said.

On Monday, Lebouthillier will detail the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) plan to step up its efforts to uncover — and tax — millions of dollars Canadians have purposely stashed in offshore accounts to keep hidden from tax collectors.

"These wealthy Canadians should not be able to buy their way out of paying the income tax that they owe," reads the news release for Monday's announcement.

> **Those who hide income and assets offshore or try to evade or avoid paying the tax they owe ... will face consequences.**
> Diane Lebouthillier

DETAILS

5 WAYS
the government will take the fight to tax evaders

1. Haven by haven
Tax analysts will start by looking at the Isle of Man, where $130 million was stashed, according to the CBC. From there, CRA investigators will turn to other "secrecy jurisdictions."

2. Hunt the enablers
The CRA will create a special branch dedicated to looking into the organizations that create and promote tax-avoidance schemes.

3. Prosecutions
The CRA will soon embed tax lawyers in their investigative teams to expedite criminal cases against tax evaders.

4. Gather allies
Canada will bolster its co-operation with other countries and likely cite the OECD's "common reporting standards," a system that would allow all countries to share information on financial transactions.

5. Find out what's missing
The Liberals will aim to calculate the tax gap — the difference between the taxes Canada should collect on paper and the money it does.

The government says that the initiatives are not a direct response to the Panama Papers. Instead, they say the revelations from the documents simply confirm long-standing concerns over tax evasion that moved the party to make it an issue during the election.

"The unprecedented investment made in the CRA's activities through Budget 2016 will fundamentally change our ability to identify and pursue both domestic and offshore tax evasion and avoidance," Lebouthillier said in a statement prepared for the announcement.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NDP vote to replace Tom Mulcair

Rank-and-file New Democrats handed Tom Mulcair another ballot-box drubbing Sunday, voting to replace him as leader less than six months after a devastating election loss that dashed the party's dream of forming Canada's first federal NDP government.

A stunned silence fell over the convention floor at Edmonton's Shaw Conference Centre as delegates realized that not only had Mulcair not attained a respectable level of support, he hadn't even reached the 50 per cent threshold.

As a result, the man who less than a year ago was being touted as poised to become Canada's first-ever NDP prime minister instead became the first federal leader ever to be rejected by a majority of delegates — 52 per cent — at a party's annual convention.

"The only thing that's important is that we leave here united," a calm, resigned-looking Mulcair told delegates after the vote. He said he'll remain as leader until his successor is chosen, within 24 months.

"We will always be the party that dreams no small dreams," Mulcair said. "We will always be the party that thinks about the little guy."

A 50-per-cent-plus-one vote would have been necessary for Mulcair to stay on, let alone have near enough support for a confident mandate. It was a far worse result for Mulcair than even his fiercest detractors might have expected, the culmination of a festering dispute over the NDP's direction in the wake of an election that robbed the party of more than half its seats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tom Mulcair pauses during his speech at the NDP federal convention in Edmonton. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Crystal Serenity
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NORTHWEST PASSAGE

North gets ready for big cruise ship visit

Sir John Franklin would have been astounded.

The Northwest Passage which he and his doomed crew of Arctic mariners sought is to be plied this summer by a ship roughly eight times as long and carrying 25 times as many people as Franklin's flagship in 1845.

The Crystal Serenity, the biggest cruise ship to plan a transit of the legendary passage, is so large that Canadian officials are holding special meetings this week to prepare. Residents in the communities along its route, who will be outnumbered by the ship's passengers and crew, are already planning for a visit that won't happen until August.

"We get a lot of cruise ships, but this one is so large it will impact us significantly such that we need months to prepare for it," said Vicki Aitaok, who's organizing a reception in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.

Every summer, about 10 cruise ships carrying a total of about 2,600 passengers sail through all or part of the Northwest Passage. The Serenity, with more than 1,000 passengers and 700 crew, is in another league.

"It's fair to say that when you have 1,700 people making this particular voyage, it caught the attention of both the American and the Canadian Coast Guard," said Jeff Hutchinson, the coast guard's deputy commissioner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JAMES BAY FIRST NATIONS

Suicide attempts prompt state of emergency at Attawapiskat

A remote northern Ontario First Nation has declared a state of emergency after numerous suicide attempts this week.

The Attawapiskat First Nation on James Bay is home to about 2,000 people.

Charlie Angus, the local MP and NDP critic for indigenous affairs, says that there is a suicide epidemic in the community.

Angus called it a "rolling nightmare" of more and more suicide attempts among young people throughout the winter. The situation led the Attawapiskat chief and council to declare a state of emergency on Saturday. But Angus says the designation may not have the immediate effects that it would elsewhere.

> **If it were declared in any other community, it would have an immediate response.**
> Charlie Angus, MP

"If it was declared in any other community, it would have an immediate response," he says. "I've lost count of the states of emergency in the James Bay region since I was elected."

He says that, most often, they go unnoticed by the federal government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUSSELS

Second France attack planned, say officials

The extremists who struck Brussels last month and killed 32 people initially planned to launch a second assault on France in the wake of the November attacks in Paris, authorities said Sunday.

But the perpetrators were "surprised by the speed of the progress in the ongoing investigation" and decided to rush an attack on Brussels instead of going back to France, the Belgian federal prosecutor's office said in a statement. It didn't provide any details on the initial French plot or its targets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARRESTS

Belgian police detained four men in raids over the weekend in relation to the Brussels attacks. One of them, Mohamed Abrini, has also been charged in Paris attacks, prosecutors said.

Abrini has acknowledged being the "man in the hat" spotted alongside the two suicide bombers who blew themselves up at Brussels Airport, officials said.

MACEDONIA

Migrants clash with border police

Migrants waged running battles with Macedonian police Sunday after they were stopped from scaling the border fence with Greece near the town of Idomeni, and aid agencies reported that hundreds of stranded travellers were injured.

Macedonian police used tear gas, stun grenades, plastic bullets and a water cannon to repel the migrants, many of whom responded by throwing rocks over the fence at police. Greek police observed from their side of the frontier but did not intervene. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A migrant runs with a tear gas canister during clashes with Macedonian police on Sunday. AMEL EMRIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Temple fire kills dozens

INDIA

Hundreds more injured in fireworks accident

The Hindu temple in southern India was packed with thousands for a religious festival early Sunday when the fireworks began — an unauthorized pyrotechnic display that went horribly wrong.

Explosions and a massive fire swept rapidly through the Puttingal temple complex about 3 a.m. in the village of Paravoor, killing 102 people and injuring 380 others, officials said.

Scores of devotees ran in panic as the massive initial blast cut off power in the complex, while other explosions sent flames and debris raining down, a witness said. Many people were trapped inside.

"It was complete chaos," said Krishna Das of Paravoor. "People were screaming in the dark. Ambulance sirens went off, and in the darkness no one knew how to find their way out of the complex."

Das said the first deafening explosion occurred as the fireworks display was about to end and as he was walking away. It was followed by a series of blasts, he added.

The fire started when a spark from the fireworks show ignited a separate batch of fireworks that were being stored in the temple complex, said Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, the top elected official in Kerala state.

Most of the more than 100 deaths occurred when the building where the fireworks were stored collapsed, Chandy told reporters. About 60 bodies have been identified so far, he added.

One of the explosions sent huge chunks of concrete flying as far as a kilometre, said Jayashree Harikrishnan, another resident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Debris of damaged structures lies on a wall decorated with motifs of Hindu gods at the spot where a massive fire broke out Sunday during a fireworks display at the Puttingal temple complex in southern Kerala state, India.

2 An injured boy rests at the Kollam district hospital.

3 People walk past damaged buildings.

AIJAZ RAHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ukraine's embattled prime minister resigns

Ukraine's prime minister announced Sunday that he is resigning, opening the way for the formation of a new government to end a drawn-out political crisis.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk said his resignation would be formally submitted Tuesday. The same day, parliament was expected to vote to elect the current speaker, Volodymyr Groysman, as the new prime minister.

Yatsenyuk's cabinet survived a no-confidence vote in February, but two parties left the governing coalition to protest the failure to oust the prime minister, who is under fire over the worsening economy and slow pace of reforms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONSERVATION

Tiger numbers up for first time in 100 years

Conservation groups say the world's count of wild tigers has gone up for the first time in more than a century.

Experts looking at national surveys and data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature say their best estimate for the number of tigers roaming forests from Russia to Vietnam is now 3,890.

3,890

Estimated number of tigers in the wild, up from 3,200 in 2010

That tally announced Monday by the World Wildlife Fund and Global Tiger Forum marks a turnaround from the all-time low of about 3,200 wild tigers recorded in 2010.

The increase was due mostly to larger numbers counted in India, Russia, Bhutan and Nepal. WWF stopped short of saying the actual number of tigers was up, noting that the higher count could be party explained by survey methods and more areas being included.

Still, this is the first time tiger counts are increasing since 1900, when there were more than 100,000 tigers in the wild.

"More important than the absolute numbers is the trend, and we're seeing the trend going in the right direction," said Ginette Hemley, senior vice-president of wildlife conservation at WWF. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TECHNICOLOR

Artificial DNA lauded as the 'future of movie archiving'

A Technicolor scientist surrounded by the latest virtual-reality technology inspects a vial containing a few droplets of water — and one million copies of an old movie encoded into DNA.

The company has come a long way since the Hollywood golden age, when the world gazed in awe at the lush palette of The Wizard of Oz and Gone with the Wind provided by its three-strip cameras.

Now celebrating its centenary year, Technicolor's laboratories are at the cutting edge of the science of filmmaking, leading a worldwide revolution in immersive entertainment.

"We are bigger today in L.A. than we were 70 years ago or 50 years ago," Technicolor chief Frederic Rose said at a recent ceremony where he accepted a "star of recognition" from the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Rose used the occasion at Technicolor's Sunset Boulevard studios to showcase the company's latest jaw-dropping innovation — the encoding of movies into artificial, "non-biological" DNA.

Look closer: This vial contains a few droplets of water — and one million copies of an old movie encoded onto DNA. ROBYN BECK/AFP

Jean Bolot, vice-president for research and innovation, held up a vial barely bigger than a bullet containing a million copies of 1902 French silent film A Trip to the Moon, the first movie to use visual effects.

DNA is almost unimaginably small — up to 90,000 molecules can fit into the width of one human hair — so even such a large library is totally invisible to the human eye. All you can see is the water in the tube.

"This, we believe, is what the future of movie archiving will look like," Bolot said.

Scientists have been experimenting with DNA as a potential storage medium for years, but recent advances in modern lab equipment have made projects like Technicolor's a reality.

Bolot's team digitized the A Trip to the Moon into data in the form of zeros and 1s in computing's binary code, and transcribed it into DNA code, which was then turned into molecules, using lab-dish chemicals.

The contents are "read" by sequencing the DNA — as is routinely done today in genetic fingerprinting — and turning it back into computer code. AFP

WHY DO IT?

Converting movies into man-made DNA brings huge advantages, said Bolot, who points out that the archives of every Hollywood studio, currently taking up square kilometres of floor space, could fit into a Lego brick.

What's more, the format for reading it doesn't become obsolete every decade or so, unlike celluloid, VHS or DVD.

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3 FITNESS TECH PRODUCTS TO GET YOU MOVING

Recognizing the latest innovations in sports and fitness products, the FIBO Global Fitness trade fair wrapped up this weekend in Cologne, Germany. Here are three highlights from the shortlisted 12 gadgets and products up for this year's FIBO Innovation and Trend Awards. AFP

1 Jabra Sport Coach wireless headphones

The Jabra Sport Coach wireless headphones take you through a workout and enable you to track and analyze your performance with their integrated Trackfit motion sensor. The headphones come with more than 40 exercises catering to levels from beginner to advanced, and will provide you with an audio coach in your ear to take you through the workout, as well as music with high-quality Dolby sound. And for those who combine their workouts with running, the Trackfit motion sensor will record your distance, pace, steps and calories so you can keep track of your progress.

The headphones can be used with many of the most popular fitness apps including Runtastic, Runkeeper, Strava and Mapmyfitness, as well as their own Jabra Sport Life app for more personalized in-ear coaching during your sweat session.

3 Gym Aesthetics High-Tech Underwear

The new Gym Aesthetics High-Tech Underwear range uses built-in sensor technology to detect and record movement from 900-plus exercises.

With tights and a T-shirt available to cover leg and torso muscles, the wearable tech will calculate and record your repetitions and muscle strain from freestyle movements and exercises on both free weights and equipment.

It can even tell you when you are performing moves incorrectly, and will provide verbal and visual feedback to your smartphone app via Bluetooth, giving you a safer and more effective way to exercise.

2 Cosinuss° one

The new ear sensor from cosinuss°, the cosinuss° One gives accurate feedback during your workout on not only your heart rate but also body temperature, an important factor to measure during athletic performance. Feedback can be sent to a smartphone or fitness tracker, and the ear sensor can also be used with its own cosinuss° One app, which can also monitor your dehydration levels so you know when to take on board more water, as well as provide an accurate reading on how many calories you have burned.

And with no need for a chest strap, the sensor gives you a much easier and more discreet way of measuring your body's overall performance throughout your workout.

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, April 11, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

Every month I spend at least an hour complaining to my phone/cable TV/Internet provider about overcharges. How do I break this cycle without being rude?

Dear Ellen,

My phone/cable TV/Internet provider keeps overcharging. Some months the bill is $4 higher. Other times it's $11. Every month I spend at least an hour on the phone trying to get them to fix the mistake once and for all. They always adjust the bill, but it keeps happening. I don't want to be rude but I don't want to spend so much time on the phone every month when the mistake is not my fault.

T.R.

Dear T.R.,

Wow. Your letter is a model of gracious restraint considering how much of your time and money is being wasted by a corporation that repeatedly makes false promises about fixing your problem but clearly doesn't care enough about your business to actually follow through.

If this company were a romantic partner, I would say: "Break up with this sleazy, lying, thieving b----d once and for all, and find yourself a decent provider!" Except then you'd have to go out and do the telecom equivalent of online dating, desperately seeking a new provider in the hopes they won't try to lock you down in an exclusive, long-term relationship, then immediately start breaking promises and screwing you over the second you commit.

I begin every call to my own provider by saying: 'Hello. I want to start by telling you that I may not be able to control my tone.'

Which they probably will, because — as much as we hate to generalize here at Urban Etiquette — the fact is that phone/cable TV/Internet providers across Canada all tend to overcharge and under deliver. The proof is in the thousands of complaints received every year by the CRTC, the government agency in charge of regulating broadcasting and telecommunications for the public good.

I'm glad to hear that you "don't want to be rude" when you make these monthly, ultimately futile phone calls, but it would be understandable if you slipped up. We can hardly expect anyone to fret about manners while getting royally shafted (especially when the shaft comes with empty, scripted apologies that waste even more time in those stupid, endless phone calls that seem designed to wear us all down so we'll stop phoning to complain in the first place).

But in calls to customer representatives, rudeness is pointless and misplaced. The wage slave on the phone is not the one at fault, and has no real power to make the company deliver on its promises. This is why I begin every call to my own provider by saying: "Hello. I want to start by telling you that I may not be able to control my tone, because I am very angry and upset. Please understand that my anger is not directed at you, but at the evil overlords who run your terrible company."

As for your endless overbilling problem, I'm sorry I don't have a better solution for you. I do encourage you to register your complaint with the CRTC crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/plaint.htm and the Commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services (CCTS) ccts-cprst.ca.

You might also want to check out Facebook groups hosted by both providers (Fido, Telus, Wind Mobile, etc.) as well as detractors (I Hate Bell Canada, Canadians Against Rogers, Shaw Cable Sucks, I Hate Telus, etc.). I don't recommend rude venting on any of these sites — toxic spirals on the Internet are good for no one. But responsibly describing your own ordeal and reading about those of others can be both therapeutic and constructive.

If you're in any way dissatisfied with this advice, feel free to speak to my manager in Retention. She'll probably just tell you what I told you, though.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The first step is admitting you're a hopeless Q-Tip addict

My long-distance fiancé had just arrived for a visit, and according to him, after the usual pleasantries, the first thing I asked was, "Did you bring the Q-Tips?"

I said it conspiratorially, with a tinge of the addict's desperation. He thought it was funny, but a week later, I landed in the walk-in clinic. Actually, I would end up there three times in four days and stay home from work to deal with the excruciating pain, akin to having your inner ear stabbed repeatedly with a sharp knife.

Yes, I took two days off work because of Q-Tips.

I don't know when it started. I only know that, after a certain point, I was hooked. It felt so good. It wasn't just about cleaning. It was about scratching the itch, and feeling that oddly sensuous shiver. As any user knows, there is something deeply, inappropriately satisfying about Q-Tips.

I knew it was wrong. I'd read the warning on the package to never put a Q-Tip inside your ear — about as effective a deterrent as a "Do not eat" warning on a box of the world's tastiest ice cream. ("Use only as a body lotion.")

The walk-in doctor asked a few questions, and I had to admit my addiction. Knowing it was wrong, I had stopped a few months ago.

But it wouldn't be breaking the new rules if someone else brought the swabs, I had reasoned.

The doctor told me my ears were very, very clean, and very, very swollen. The infection could be fixed with drops, he noted.

"So just to be clear," I said, cupping my ears. "I did this to myself, with Q-Tips??"

"Yes."

Walk-in doctors are constantly fielding cotton-swab injuries, he told me. "I can't believe they're still on shelves," he said. "A colleague and I joke that we should launch a class action lawsuit."

A lawsuit! For Q-Tips! And I would play the plaintiff. Because, really — as if cotton swab companies don't know how good their insidious products feel, as they caress those sensitive, rarely touched nerve endings. Worst of it all, as my ears started to heal, that old urge came back.

But I have sworn them off. Missing work over a Q-Tip was embarrassing enough the first time, but the pain is what's keeping me away. I would wake up in the middle of the night in agony, convinced my whole face and ears were stuck inside a clamp. I actually considered going to the ER.

Because of a Q-Tip.

That's a joke that's only funny the first time.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Monday, April 11, 2016

After Whoopi Goldberg collaborates on a line of medical cannabis designed to relieve menstrual pain, New Jersey lawmakers eye loosening the state's laws to allow women to get pot-based products to ease cramps.

How well have Annick and Yolanda's finances improved? At the end of our three month series, **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** looks at the financial gains both women have made and finds they've collectively increased their net worth by nearly $9,000

Back on track after 12 weeks

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metromoney

THE CHALLENGE: Twelve weeks ago Annick, 24 and from Calgary, and Yolanda, 27, from Mississauga, took on the Metro Money Makeover challenge to transform their finances. Both young women rolled up their sleeves to get financially fit and reach new money milestones by crushing debt and saving thousands.

THIS WEEK: These two young women shattered their financial limitations and collectively raised they net worth by nearly $9,000! More importantly, Annick and Yolanda have new and lasting financial life skills that will ensure their dreams of home ownership and higher incomes happen soon.

THE RESULTS: Financial success comes to those who work for it and Annick and Yolanda have done just that. After their 12-week financial transformation, I'm confident they're on track to financial independence which makes me the proudest money coach in Canada.

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Annick

When Annick arrived in Calgary in 2010 from the Democratic Republic of Congo she had high expectations of a powerful Canadian education in energy management, a great job in a strong economy and dreams of home ownership by age 25.

But the cloud of student loans, high cost of living and few career prospects upon graduation due to disastrously low commodity prices crushed her finances. Further reducing her net worth were a few financial missteps — credit card balances from too many shoe and furniture purchases.

Annick and I have worked almost exclusively on the reduction of her consumer debt. Our target date for her consumer debt-freedom was July 2016, but she beat that by a long shot! Just two weeks ago she triumphed over it with the help of a tax refund totaling $2,780.

The consumer debt reduction strategy we used for Annick was the 60/60/60 plan where every 60 days Annick eliminated another debt. Using between $750 and $900 per month of her cash flow from her nine to five job plus a part-time gig, we focused first on paying her loans to friends and family, which were causing her tremendous stress, followed by her expensive credit card balances.

When her tax refund was deposited, she paid out all remaining balances.

Today, Annick is left with a $58,200 student loan and a small, but growing, group RRSP through her work (her employer matches her contributions 50 per cent).

THE NEXT 12 MONTHS: Annick must be careful not to slip back into old habits of overspending and instead focus on her goals of:

- Building an emergency fund (one year)
- Earning a better income (one to two years)
- Growing a down payment (three years)

Annick's long-term financial goals require short-term trade-offs.

So if she wants her dreams badly enough, she'll swap concert tickets and car payments for contributions to her TFSA and RRSP.

THE RESULTS: When we met in December 2015, Annick's net worth was ($62,450).

In 12 weeks, she's eliminated her credit card balances and loans to friends and family for a net worth improvement of $5,300 to ($57,150).

In 12 weeks Annick has eliminated her credit card balances and loans to friends and family. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

NET WORTH

Assets	
TFSA	50
RRSP	1,000
Total Assets	**$1,050**
Liabilities	
Student Loan	58,200
Total Liabilities	**$58,200**
Net worth	**($57,150)**

Yolanda

In my first meeting with Yolanda she clearly demonstrated a high ability to save money. But, the reason she wasn't seeing any progress on her money was because she was using her TFSA and RRSP like a bank account; draining the balances whenever vet bills or trips came up. Yolanda's challenge came down to learning to budget for her short-term needs (some unexpected), while continuing to save towards her long-term goal of owning a home through her TFSA and RRSP. We crunched the numbers of her income and expenses — the two components that make up a budget — and identified three other financial areas requiring attention.

First, though she's very good at living within her means, Yolanda is underpaid. Yes, she loves her communications job at a well known charity, but the big question is how much? Her low income is compromising her ability to save for her goals.

Second, she needed to establish a financial "buffer" account which could be used to pay for unexpected expenses that traditionally would cause her to raid her TFSA and RRSP. She now contributes to that account regularly.

Third, Yolanda is incredibly financially generous. But, her contributions to helping children in underdeveloped countries and tithes to her church were getting larger and larger by the month. Today she follows the 10 per cent rule and gives a bit more of her time volunteering.

Because of Yolanda's insatiable desire to own a home, she made the critical decision to move back home with her mother, allowing her to save more aggressively for a down payment.

"This entire journey into the bowels of my finances has really opened my eyes. Now I really know how much I give, how much I save, how much I make, and how much I lack.

"It's great to know my numbers. I also find myself talking with friends and family about the benefits of budgeting and possibly giving back. But the one lesson I've learned: everything is a trade off!" Yolanda said.

Yolanda has learned to budget for her short term needs. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

THE NEXT 12 MONTHS: Yolanda's number one financial priority is saving $30,000 for a down payment and closing costs. Her goal is:

- Home ownership (three years).

To make this a reality, she'll need to tuck away between $800 and $900 per month for the next three years.

This means living like a lean mean frugal machine.

So, Yolanda may also want to consider trading her job that she loves in the non-profit sector for one that pays 35 per cent more money or getting her "side-hustle" on and secure a second job.

THE RESULTS: Since December 2015, Yolanda has improved her net worth by $3,575 by setting up bi-weekly contributions to her savings account, pension, TFSA and RRSP. Her net worth is now $7,875.

NET WORTH

Assets	
Savings	325
Pension	5,000
TFSA	1,300
RRSP	1,250
Total Assets	**$7,875**
Liabilities	
VISA	0
Total Liabilities	**$7,875**
Net worth	**$7,875**

YOU CAN DO THIS ANIMATOR

‘For me, it’s about the people’

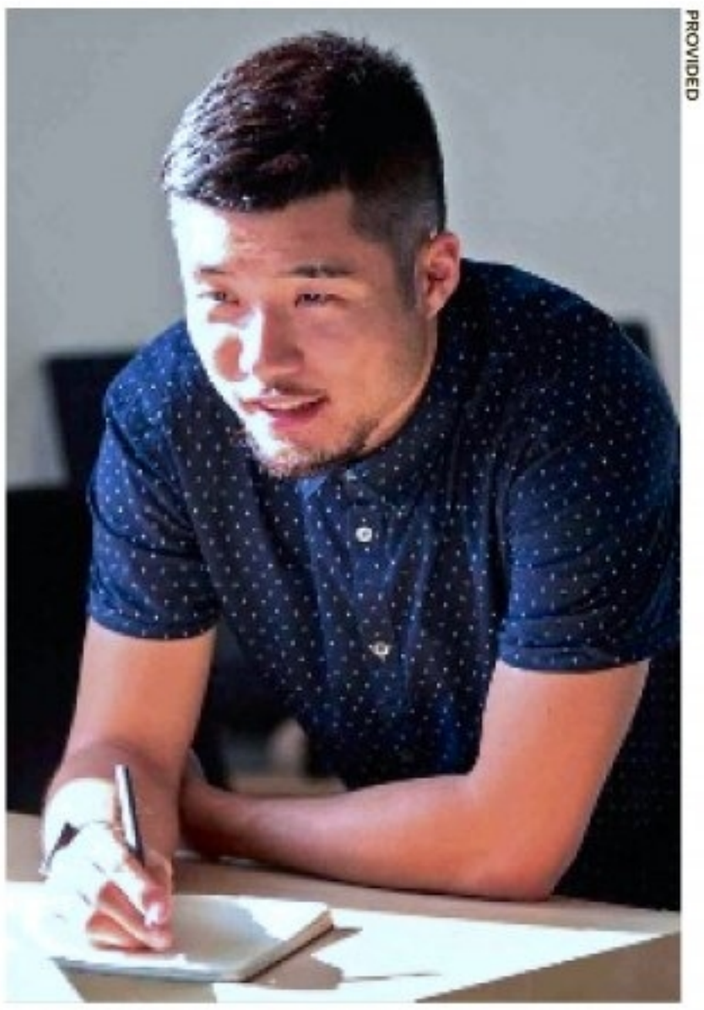
WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Hao Chen, 31, Creative Director, Vancouver, B.C.

I grew into an art family; ever since I was young, I was drawing. I went to Emily Carr here in Vancouver. I got into the animation program and did the full three years and got my BA there.

Ever since, I've worked in the industry. I started with bigger studios, working on Barbie and Max Steele, and did post-production on some Hollywood films. Then I went back to school, for entertainment design in Los Angeles, and after a year I decided it was time to start my own thing. I freelanced for a while, then my business partner and I started our company, LineTest. We focus on advertisements, TV commercials, online campaigns, digital signage and mobile apps. We're a small studio, but we work with pretty big clients.

My job is to convey clients' ideas and campaigns to the artists in our studio. I also take care of the business side of LineTest. For me, it's about the people, whether it's meeting with clients and helping them with their vision, or working with artists. I learn a lot from other people, and I get inspired by new ideas that can only be created when a collective is brought together. METRO



PROVIDED

THE BASICS: Animator

$49,782

Median wage of animators, according to PayScale.com. Some even make as much as **$78,426**, and can earn more as animation producers or creative directors.

+9.1%

The amount of growth expected in this field over the next four years

Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, servicecanada.gc.ca, humber.ca, sheridancollege.ca, centennialcollege.ca, centennialcollege.ca, ryerson.ca and durhamcollege.ca

HOW TO START

A Bachelor of Animation or a diploma in Computer Animation is a typical starting point for a professional animator.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Job titles and responsibilities for animators are diverse. Animators may work in feature film or television, on video games or in web design. They might become illustrators for medical textbooks or they could go on to become animation producers or creative directors in marketing firms. Depending on their strengths and interests, freelance animators often perform a mix of artistic duties.

NEXT CAREER STEP

If they haven't studied it already, animators may want to explore post-grad studies in 3D Animation, or a certificate in Digital Animation or Digital Art Production. Artists working for marketing firms may choose to explore that field to accelerate career potential. METRO

EDUCATION

Paper vs. laptops: Experts weigh in

Some studies suggest students who take notes using pen and paper remember more than those typing their notes on a computer, but experts and educators caution such findings should be taken with a grain of salt.

Factors other than the method of note-taking can be far more significant when it comes to memorizing material, they say.

"Your long-term or short-term memory depends a lot on what you're interested in and what you value," said David Cameron, research director with the activist group People for Education.

One study that garnered international attention gathered information from hundreds of students from Princeton University and the University of California in Los Angeles. It found students who used laptops to take notes didn't retain the information for long.

In contrast, according to the 2014 study by Pam Mueller and Daniel Oppenheimer, students who handwrote their notes had a better understanding of the information.

"I've seen many classrooms where kids have copied the entire board in terms of lesson structure and plan and goal, and then you walk up and ask and he says, 'Well, I wasn't reading, I was just copying off the board.'"

Ester Cole, a Toronto-based child psychologist, said both skills — handwriting notes and typing them on laptops — are valuable if students want to do well.

Children need to be able to utilize both fine-motor and digital skills to best complement what they're learning, he said.

"Computer technology is a tool, and tools are complementary."

Some educators said technology can offer a distinct advantage in certain cases to handwriting and can even be a necessity.

"If your fine-motor skills are not developed to the point where you're able to write quickly enough or legibly enough, maybe the technology can help you keep up or take more legible notes," said Kevin Bradbeer, with the Toronto District School Board.

In 2016 the University of Waterloo did a study on students who typed an essay with one hand versus two hands.

They generally found that students who typed with one hand — equated in the study to handwriting — wrote better essays.

A study found students who typed an essay with one hand wrote better essays than students who typed with two hands, due to slowing down their writing process. ISTOCK

"We're not saying that students should write their term papers with one hand, but our results show that going fast can have its drawbacks," says the study authored by professor Evan Risko.

"This is important to consider as writing tools continue to emerge that let us get our thoughts onto the proverbial page faster and faster."

A study by People for Education in 2014 found 79 per cent of students in Ontario had been integrating technology into their learning since kindergarten.

Cameron says that while handwriting and technology will coexist in education, we won't be reverting to solely handwriting notes anytime soon.

He believes tablets will probably be mandatory for students in the future.

"You (now) expect a kid to come with a pencil and a paper," he said. "You're probably also, at a certain point, (going to) expect a kid to come with some sort of interactive digital device."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ETIQUETTE AND THE INTERNET

Advent of the e-thank you

Cara Paiuk and her husband Alex sent thank-you cards following their engagement and wedding, but she candidly confesses she's not a fan of the handwritten missives.

"Generally, I hate them. I don't do them," says the writer and photographer, who hails from Vancouver and now lives in West Hartford, Conn. "After my bat mitzvah 30-odd years ago, I wouldn't do them, and my mother had to write them. While digital natives might feel there's nothing wrong with sending an e-note of thanks, etiquette experts say the practice of mailing out handwritten notes is still expected.

But digital services have popped up allowing users to send e-cards or video messages to friends and family. Civility Experts Worldwide president Lew Bayer likes the idea of sending videos, and favours a personalized approach. But ultimately, individuals should be conscious of what will be most meaningful to recipients when expressing gratitude, she adds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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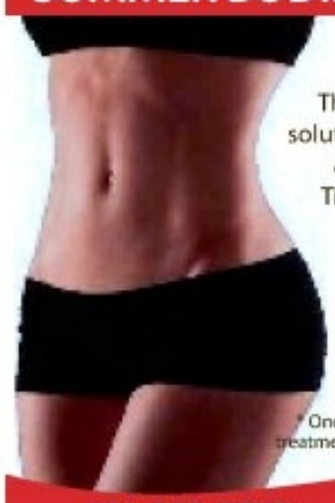

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Libraries feeling eBook price pinch

PUBLISHING

Charges top $120 per book, per year in some cases

Local libraries are making noise about eBook prices, saying that they pay multinational publishers up to five times more than average consumers do for the same titles.

And libraries — including ones in Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax and Vancouver — say they'd like things to change, so that they can pay according to their size and needs, rather than using the current one-size-fits-all model.

That model is part of what's causing higher prices for them, said Kate Edwards, executive director of the Association of Canadian Publishers.

"They're not tailored to the Canadian market," Edwards said of the way international publishers evaluate libraries' reach and determine prices. Many publishers also charge in U.S. dollars, which adds to the cost for Canadian branches.

Last summer, four Canadian public libraries began pushing for change; since then, their group, Canadian Public Libraries for Fair Book Pricing, has grown to include 29 systems. Libraries say demand for their eBooks has grown 1,200 per cent since 2009, and meeting that need is denting their budgets.

In February, the group outlined its demands in an open letter to the "Big Five" publishers — Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Random House and Simon & Schuster.

They have a meeting scheduled with Simon & Schuster this month as a result, said Toronto Public Library city librarian Vickery Bowles. And one major publisher, Penguin Random House, has agreed to offer better prices for its digital books

Kate Edwards, executive director of the Association of Canadian Publishers, said Canadian book producers, unlike multinational ones, charge libraries a market-appropriate price for eBooks. MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Libraries say the eBook prices they face are one-and-a-half to five times what consumers pay, and have not been adjusted to take the drop in the Canadian dollar into account (apart from the recent changes by Penguin Random House). They say charges from Canadian publishers are not a problem.

In the case of a James Patterson book, the library group said average readers pay $14.99, while a library pays $121 per copy. And some publishers' eBooks expire after a year, so libraries must repurchase the stock.

$65

The new cap on eBook pricing Penguin Random House adopted after libraries' campaigning. Their prices formerly reached five times the retail price and were in U.S. dollars.

For print books, "we'll pay $18 to $25," said Bowles of the Toronto library.

Why the high prices? "Publishers are concerned that borrowing an eBook is so much easier," said Bowles, adding that she understands the premium, but the current rate isn't sustainable.

HarperCollins Canada said the prices they offer libraries are already similar to what the group is asking for — except for the expiry it's placed on eBooks after 26 consecutive lends, determined by the publisher to be the average uses a physical library book gets before breaking or becoming unpopular.

"Our model is designed to be cost-effective for libraries and based on actual usage," the publisher said in a statement.

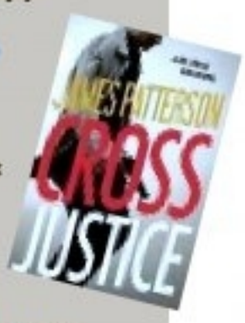
It's unclear which government department could create policy surrounding the public purchasing of eBooks. Ottawa councillor and chair of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Tim Tierney said regulation could come from the Copyright Act. It "dictates who can use something without being sued," Tierney said, adding that the act was amended in 2012 so that schools don't have to pay to play films and music in their classrooms.

"We're not asking for free, but we're asking for fair," he said.

VERITY STEVENSON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OFF THE SHELF

Examples of popular eBooks — what you pay and what a library pays per lending copy.



Cross Justice by James Patterson
Retail: $14.99
Libraries pay: $121.00

Home by Ellen Degeneres
Retail: $16.99
Libraries pay: $146.00

Furiously Happy by Jenny Lawson
Retail: $13.99
Libraries pay: $60.00

The Food Lab by J. Kenji López-Alt
Retail: $54.99
Libraries pay: $139.00

MONEY MATTERS

It's costing more than you think: Pay off your student loans

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Heaps of people are under the impression that the government wants to do right by students. What they don't know, because they've taken the preceding as gospel, is they may be paying more interest than they think.

True or False?

1. The six-month, no-payment grace period when you leave school comes interest-free.

2. The interest rate on student loans is comparable to what's available at the bank.

3. You should use the student loan default repayment schedule to pay off your student loan.

If you answered True to any of these, you're misinformed. Did you really think that after years of giving you money for free while you were in school the government wouldn't find a way to get its pound of flesh?

Here's the reality:

1. The six-month grace period comes with interest. While you don't have to make a payment, your debt continues to grow. Graduate owing $28,000 (which is the average), and that six-month deferral will cost you up to $1,000 in extra interest. You'll have the option of paying it in a lump sum, but most people add it to their principal and end up paying interest on interest.

2. The interest rates on student loans are higher than you typically get at a bank. Remember all those years you were in school using the government's money and paying not one red cent in interest? Since the government is going to get its money back one way or another, student loans come with a hefty price tag once the interest-rate clock is turned on. If you choose a variable interest rate, you'll pay prime + 2.5 per cent. If you choose fixed-rate, you'll pay prime + five per cent.

3. The student-loan default repayment schedule is designed to take ten years to pay off. The default term is 114 months, and most people go with that without giving it a second thought. If you graduate with $28,000 of debt and choose default repayment at a variable rate, you'll pay more than $8,000 in interest. (If you chose the fixed rate, it's more than $12,000.)

Want to pay less interest? Once you've got a steady job, consolidate your student loans with an aggressive repayment schedule. Plan to take three to five years to pay off an undergrad degree, five to seven years for a master's and seven to 10 years for a doctorate.

On the "Repay my student loan" link at canlearn.ca, you can compare payment options to see how much interest you'll end up paying. Your goal should be to pay no more than you absolutely have to.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

Think your interest rate is a good deal? Think again. ISTOCK

Growing up in front of the camera

BOREALIS

Joey King is only 16, but she's been in some big films

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Joey King, left, and Jonas Chernick star in Borealis. CONTRIBUTED

To steal an overworked epithet, Joey King is a rising star.

After all, the L.A. actress is hot off the hit TV series Fargo, recently been named one of today's top teen actors by Variety magazine and won best actress at the Vancouver Film Festival.

For many 16-year-olds, fame would go straight to their heads, but not King.

"You get excited and proud but it's never like I deserved that (because) to be honest, there's another girl who had an amazing performance elsewhere that also deserves it — I just happened to get recognized," said King.

At 16, King has accomplished more than most actors do in a lifetime.

From working in such thrillers as The Dark Knight Rises and White House Down to lining up an impressive array of hotly anticipated movies — such as the sequel to 1996's sci-fi smash Independence Day, King has every excuse to be smug. "I think that my mindset for how I think now comes from growing up around adults," explained King, pointing out she's now a 12-year veteran in showbiz.

"Growing up around all these people that much wiser, more experienced in life than me — I've always just wanted to keep up."

King's humility shines through in her upcoming feature as well.

A quirky low-budget Canadian drama called Borealis, King is gaining praise for her refined portrayal of an estranged youth on a road trip to chilly Churchill, Man., with her father (Jonas Chernick) to see the northern lights, before an illness steals her sight. Not exactly the equivalent to working on a big Hollywood blockbuster.

"Being on a set like Borealis (and) Independence Day, the difference is unreal," laughed King insisting she doesn't have a preference over either experience.

"But a common theme among every film I work on is that everyone who is on the film — they're all so passionate about the work they're doing."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

The last broadcast hit

THE SHOW: American Idol, series finale (CTV/Fox)
THE MOMENT: The country medley

American Idol Season 1 judges chat with Ryan Seacrest on stage during the Idol finale. GETTY IMAGES

A storm of singers does a five-song mashup, including Taylor Swift's You Belong with Me. Here are Kellie Pickler and Constantine Maroulis; they look vaguely familiar. Out comes Scotty McCreery (Season 10) — he's clearly the star.

All Idol hallmarks are present: basic choreography, and lots of it; duets that are exercises in upstaging. But even tonight, with 15 years of talent, there are still flat notes and enough pitchiness to power the World Series. Idol proved that, though everyone thinks they can sing, many are wrong.

But as host Ryan Seacrest reminded us, Idol wasn't about the singers — it was about the fans. Parachuted in from England after 9/11 to give the U.S. something to bond over, Idol was the last true broadcast hit. I watched Season 1 with my daughter, who was 8, and it gave us much to talk about.

It showed us how people longed to bust out of their hometowns, their small lives. Then it turned around and showed us hometown love. That was an important thing to see.

Mainly it allowed us to discover and discuss our taste: Do we like his hair? Is she too ingratiating? In being able to vote, we could express our idea of what's good, what matters.

What made Idol a hit is also what killed it: social media. Fifteen years ago, we voted by phone. Now that we have myriad ways to express our taste 24/7, we don't need Idol. But for the record, here are my votes: Phil Phillips has real talent, and Fantasia makes me cry.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

8 MOVIES TO ANTICIPATE THIS SPRING

The next three months bring a strange assortment of high and low art to movie theatres. April still has the studio cast-offs and Oscar holdovers of winter, but also the promise of fresher attractions. May is the month of the Cannes Film Festival and June gets summer and blockbuster season fully underway. Here are 10 films I'm most looking forward to:

PETER HOWELL TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

APRIL 29

Keanu

Don't think Keanu Reeves, think Key & Peele, as this shaggy cat story marks a hopeful leap from the small screen to the big one for hot comedy duo Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele. They play pals who pose as drug dealers to snatch back their adorable pet kitten, stolen from them by deadly gang-bangers. Will kitty Keanu steal the picture? Key & Peele series director Atencio takes the helm, Luis Guzmán and Will Forte co-star.

APRIL 29

A Beautiful Planet

I'm a sucker for space stories, especially real ones. This IMAX extravaganza looks to deliver in both eye-popping and ecological terms. Directed by Toni Myers (Space Station 3D) and narrated by Jennifer Lawrence from the vantage point of the International Space Station, it shows the beauty and fragility of this blue orb.

MAY 13

Money Monster

Five years after her Mel Gibson misfire The Beaver, Jodie Foster again directs a movie about damaged males. George Clooney plays a Wall Streeter turned TV personality whose brash stock advice has made him a star — and also enemies. He's taken hostage by a vengeful viewer, in what sounds like a King of Comedy-style thriller. There's talk of a Cannes premiere, which ups the critical ante. Julia Roberts and Jack O'Connell co-star.

MAY 27

Love and Friendship

Saw the Sundance premiere and loved every poison-penned minute of it. Whit Stillman's adaptation of Jane Austen's unpublished novella Lady Jane, starring Kate Beckinsale and Chloë Sevigny, make for such a delightful comedy of manners. Stillman and Austen are more than a century apart, but they share a satirist's love of language and of the divide between what is said and what is really meant, especially pertaining to matters of affection.

MAY 20

The Nice Guys

It's always a good sign when the trailers keep getting better for an upcoming movie, especially when on paper it seems like just another odd-couple comedy. But the couple is Ryan Gosling and Russell Crowe, who seem well matched as detectives and reluctant partners in 1970s Los Angeles. And the director is Shane Black, who made Kiss Kiss Bang Bang and Iron Man 3. I'm already there, but talk of a Cannes premiere certainly piques interest.

JUNE 10

Warcraft

A movie based on a video game is usually a bad idea, not to mention a dud. But here's a case where you have to trust the filmmaker, at least going in. Writer/director Duncan Jones (Moon, Source Code) has done great things with sci-fi and fantasy material, so hope springs eternal. Set in the fractious world of Azeroth, where resident humans and invading orcs find common cause in the concept of home. Travis Fimmel and Toby Kebbell co-star.

JUNE 17

Tempest Storm

She was born humble Annie Banks 88 years ago in the town of Eastman, Georgia. But as exotic dancer Tempest Storm, she's lived a life of glamour and infamy as a burlesque teaser and bedmate to celebrities, JFK and Elvis among them. In the 1950s, she insured her breasts for $1 million. There's obviously a lot raging with this Storm, and Nimisha Mukerji's doc weathers it.

JUNE 24

The Shallows

Duuun dun, duuun dun. Yes, it does look something of a Jaws knock-off: Blake Lively as a surfer threatened by a great white shark. It's actually a woman vs. beast thriller, since the surfer gal, stranded on a buoy, has to figure out how to get past ferocious teeth to reach the shore. Director Jaume Collet-Serra managed closed-quarters suspense with Non-Stop, so let's hope he's as good in the water as he was in the air.

metro SPORTS

According to his agent, Red Wings centre Pavel Datsyuk will retire from the NHL after the playoffs

Burrows provided special moments for Canucks

NHL

Saturday's win could've been his last game with Vancouver

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

It was shaping up to be the perfect story.

Alex Burrows, in the shootout, scoring to give the Canucks the advantage and possibly the win. He slid the puck through the legs of Edmonton Oilers goalie Cam Talbot, and what a cheer that brought from the appreciative fans.

And like he's done in the past, Burrows went to his bow and arrow and pointed to the heavens, saluting his late friend Luc Bourdon.

This game may not have meant much. The Canucks won 4-3 in a seven-round shootout. Season over. But it meant something for Burrows.

He admitted following the win that he allowed himself during the afternoon to consider the possibility this could be his final game as a Canuck.

Burrows started Saturday's game at right wing on a line with Daniel and Henrik Sedin.

There's always risk in reading too much into certain moves, but if this was the last game for Burrows in a Canucks uniform — that's been the speculation — then it was fitting to see him placed on the line with the two players he shared so much success with when the outgoing core group was at its best from 2009 to 2012.

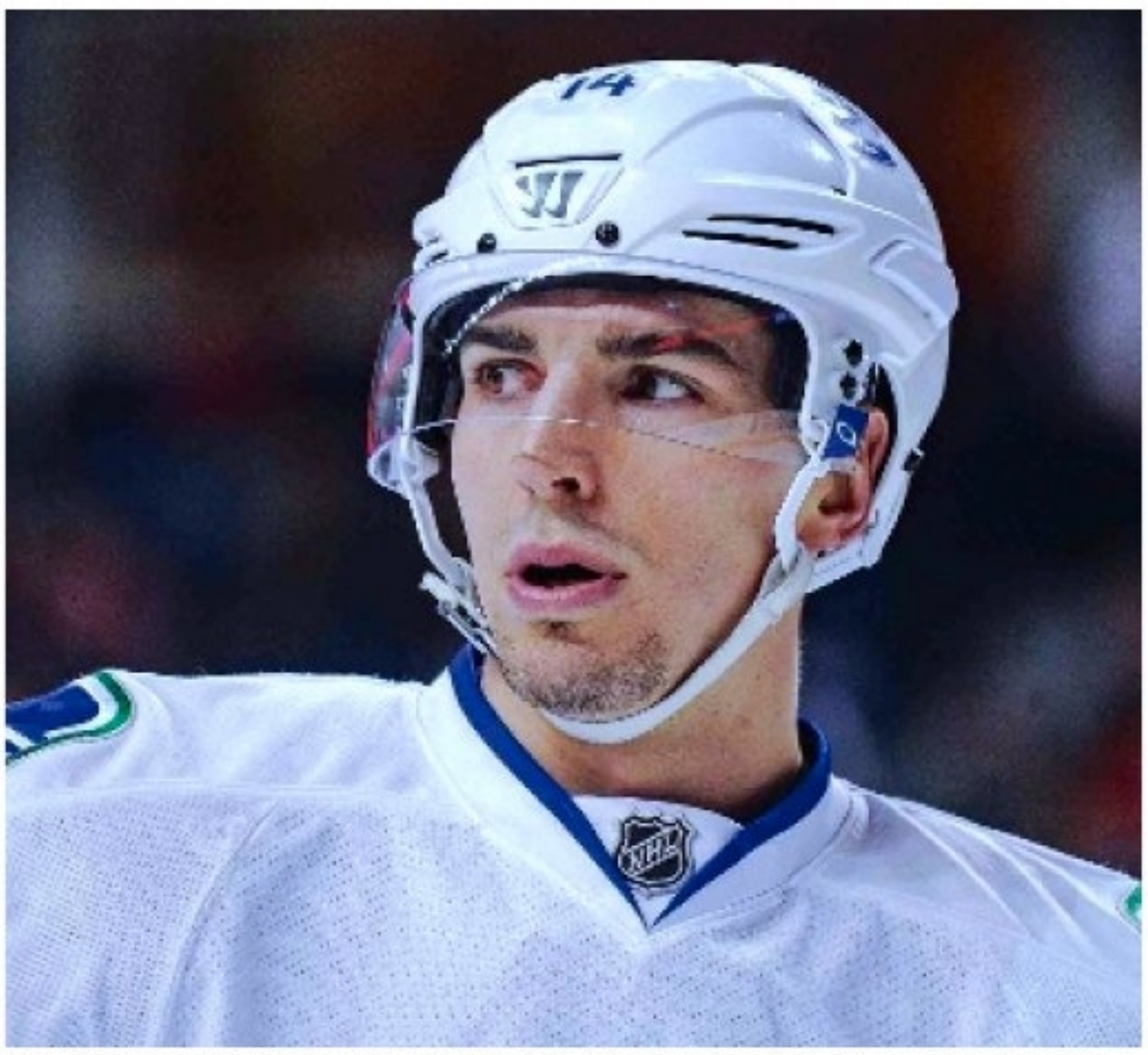
At the peak of his success in the NHL, Burrows hit the 35-goal mark in 2009-10. He had a career-high 67 points, too. And he's appeared in 767 games — all with the Canucks — after working his way up from the Greenville Grrrowl (that's not a typo) and Baton Rouge Kingfish in the ECHL.

> **It makes total sense, and I have a lot of faith in those guys.**
>
> Alex Burrows, on Canucks management leaning toward younger talent

After this season, Burrows, soon to be 35 years old, has one more year remaining on his current contract, which has a cap hit of $4.5 million and a no-trade clause.

It's been speculated that Canucks management may try to move Burrows through a trade or even buy him out.

"They want to get younger," said Burrows.



Alex Burrows recorded nine goals and 13 assists this season in 79 games. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

"If this was my last game, I just point a finger at myself. I had to be better and that's the bottom line."

If he is moved, the memorable moments he provided for this franchise won't be forgotten.

He famously "slayed the dragon" in overtime of Game 7 against the Chicago Blackhawks. A few weeks later, he scored in overtime of the Stanley Cup final against the Boston Bruins.

Not bad for a guy once surviving in the minors on a $500 a week salary.

MASTERS

Willett conquers Augusta National

Danny Willett in a green jacket was hard to believe considering he wasn't even sure he could play the Masters two weeks ago.

Jordan Spieth was even more stunned.

Nine holes away from history, the defending Masters champion threw it all away in a collapse around Amen Corner that was shocking even by Augusta National standards. He played the opening three holes of the back nine in 6 over par, including a quadruple bogey at the 12th.

Willett, five shots behind with six holes left to play, birdied three of his last six holes to polish off a round that might not get its due because of Spieth's meltdown. He closed with a 5-under 67, with no bogeys on his card, to match the best score of the weekend.

The 28-year-old Englishman wasn't even planning to play. His wife was due with their first child on this very day. Their son, Zachariah James, was born on March 30, clearing Willett to a most unlikely path to becoming a major champion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RUNNERS-UP

Spieth closed with a 73 and tied for second with Lee Westwood (69).

CRIME

Ex-NFLer shot dead after fender-bender

Former New Orleans Saints player Will Smith was shot and killed in what appeared to be a road-rage incident, city police said Sunday. The death shocked fans of the much-loved athlete.

Investigators don't have any evidence so far that the shooting was "anything other than this accident ... that turned violent," Police Supt. Michael Harrison said Sunday afternoon.

There's no indication that Smith, 34, and the man accused of killing him knew each other or that Cardell Hayes, 28, targeted Smith, Harrison said.

Will Smith
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Smith, a former defensive end, was a first-round draft choice by New Orleans in 2004.

He led the Saints with a career-high 13 sacks in 2009, when the club won its only Super Bowl. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Senators GM steps down

Bryan Murray would have liked his time as general manager of the Ottawa Senators to have a better ending, but at least he is confident that he's leaving the position in good hands.

Less than 24 hours after the Sens' season ended, Murray announced Sunday he would be stepping down into a senior advisory role. In November 2014, Murray announced he had Stage 4 colon cancer. Pierre Dorion will take over as Senators GM.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mariners waste King Felix's dominant performance

Coco Crisp hit a two-out homer in the 10th inning to help the Oakland Athletics overcome a dominant outing from Seattle ace Felix Hernandez and beat the Mariners 2-1 Sunday to sweep the three-game series.

Hernandez struck out 10 over seven scoreless innings, allowing three hits and two walks.

Crisp hit his no-doubter to right field off Nick Vincent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Estrada leads Jays to shutout of BoSox

Marco Estrada took up where he left off last season, throwing the Blue Jays an early season lifeline after four straight losses.

The Toronto right-hander, making his season debut after a sore back limited him in spring training, threw seven shutout innings and Josh Donaldson belted his fourth homer in a 3-0 win over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday before a Rogers Centre sellout of 46,158.

Estrada shut down a Boston team that had scored 28 runs in its first four games, including 16 in the previous two in Toronto.

He struck out eight while limiting the Red Sox to five hits and two walks in an economical 91-pitch outing that featured 62 strikes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUNDAY in Toronto

BLUE JAYS	RED SOX
3	0

Warriors match Bulls' record 72 wins

NBA

Champions can set new standard with win over Grizz

The Golden State Warriors got a historic victory in the one place they hadn't won in nearly two decades.

Stephen Curry had 37 points and the Warriors beat the San Antonio Spurs 92-86 Sunday night for their 72nd win, tying the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls for the season record.

The Warriors will finish their regular season at home against the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

The Spurs had won 48 consecutive regular-season games at home, including an NBA-record 39 straight to begin this season. Golden State ended a 33-game skid in San Antonio that dated to 1997.

San Antonio sat Tim Duncan for rest and was without an injured Boris Diaw. It had not lost at home since March 2015.

The Warriors dominated the fourth quarter. Curry controlled the action with a series of layups when San Antonio's defence attempted to run him off the three-point line.

In their lone victory over Golden State this season, the Spurs managed to slow the game down. San Antonio tried to match the Warriors' pace Sunday, though, leading to a tense and at times sloppy game.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points to lead the Spurs, who have lost three straight for the first time this season. Kawhi Leonard added 20 points but shot 7-for-22 from the field while continually being harried by Draymond Green.

Golden State's previous victory in San Antonio was Feb. 14, 1997. Latrell Sprewell had 32 points in leading the Warriors to a 108-94 victory. The Spurs were without injured David Robinson and were months away from drafting Duncan.

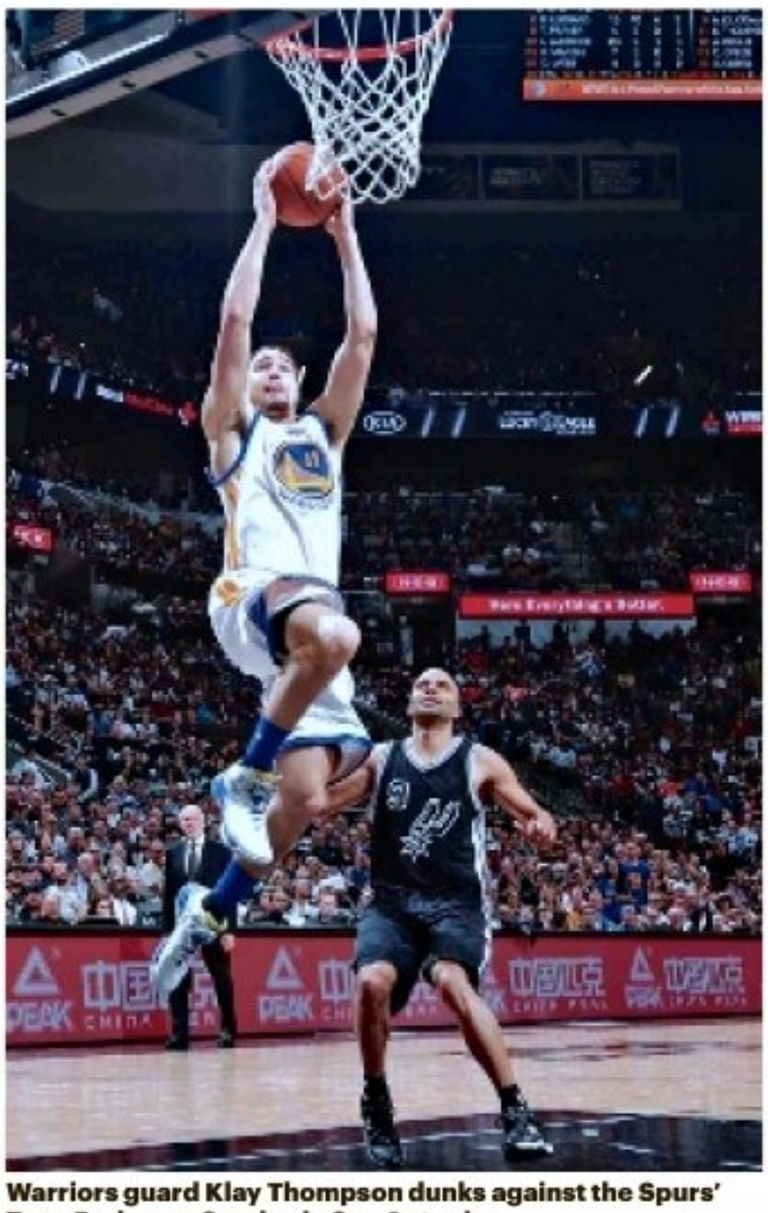
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNDAY in San Antonio

WARRIORS	SPURS
92	86

CHASING 73

The Warriors will go for their 73rd win of the season on Wednesday at home against the Grizzlies. The two teams played on Saturday, with Golden State winning 100-99.



Warriors guard Klay Thompson dunks against the Spurs' Tony Parker on Sunday in San Antonio. CHRIS COVATTA/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester title looking like reality

Leicester's first target was exceeded long ago: Premier League survival. Another landmark was achieved Sunday: Champions League qualification for the first time. By the end of the month, Leicester should have secured the prize once simply unthinkable for such a team: the Premier League trophy itself.

Jamie Vardy's double at Sunderland sealed a 2-0 victory that guaranteed a coveted top-four finish. Leicester remains seven points clear at the top and is starting to resemble a Premier League thoroughbred with its effortless march to a first title.

This isn't what a title run-in should look like for a team yet to win the league title in its 132-year history and was in a relegation scrap this time last season.

Tottenham is waiting to pounce on any slip-up by Leicester. The second-place London club responded to Leicester's Sunderland success by ending a 15-year wait for a home win over Manchester United. A 3-0 victory was secured by Dele Alli, Toby Alderweireld and Erik Lamela scoring within five minutes, 46 seconds in the second half.

It pushed Tottenham a step closer to joining Leicester in the Champions League next season, having only featured in Europe's top competition once before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leicester celebrates a win at Sunderland. GETTY IMAGES

MLS IN BRIEF

Marshall saves Sounders

Chad Marshall scored in the 94th minute to give the Seattle Sounders a 1-1 tie with the Houston Dynamo on Sunday.

Marshall tallied the goal from behind the six-yard box after Oalex Anderson's cross deflected off goalkeeper Joe Willis and defender Raul Rodriguez. The final whistle blew shortly after the ensuing kickoff to give Seattle (1-3-1) its first draw.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ousted peppered in D.C.

Fabian Espindola and Alvaro Saborio each scored twice to help D.C. United beat Vancouver 4-0 Saturday and snap a six-game winless streak dating to last season.

Vancouver (2-3-1), which had a three-game unbeaten streak snapped, was outshot 24-7, including 13-1 in shots on target.

David Ousted had a career-high nine saves for the Whitecaps.

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RECIPE Baked Eggs with Asparagus

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We never underestimate the power of an egg, especially when it comes to making healthy and fast dinners. Two eggs and you're practically a superhero.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 8 asparagus spears, trimmed and chopped
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- salt and pepper

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

2. Pour your olive oil in a small, oven-proof skillet and bring up to medium heat. Add the asparagus pieces and sautée until they just begin to soften, about 3 to 5 minutes. Spread the vegetables evenly across the pan.

3. Crack the eggs over the asparagus. Carefully place the skillet into the oven. Bake for 5 minutes.

4. Using an oven mitt, slide the pan out of the oven. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese across the top of the whole pan and gently place back in the oven. Bake for another 5 minutes, or until the eggs are cooked to your liking.

4. Serve with buttered toast.

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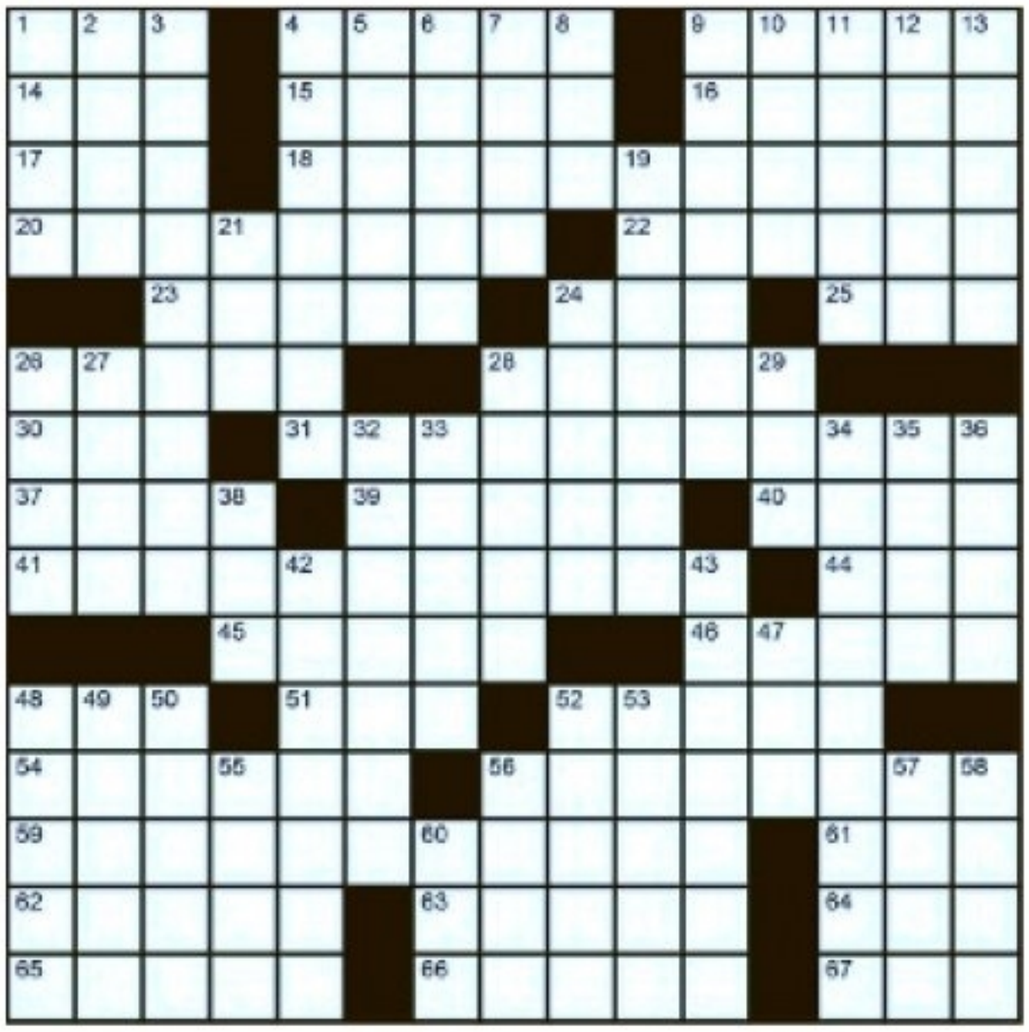
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Razors brand
4. University __ Brunswick
9. Athlete's contraction
14. Soul part, in ancient Egyptian mythology
15. Adam van __, Flemish painter
16. Patchy-coated horse
17. __ culpa!
18. Radio __
20. __ and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age (Current exhibit at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto)
22. Unspecified individual
23. English diarist, Samuel __ (b.1633 - d.1703)
24. Couplet
25. Telephone bk. listings
26. "Look __ Did!" (Check out my accomplishment!)
28. Feudal workers
30. Cleaning item
31. Toronto subway station: 2 wds.
37. Uncle's wife
39. What one can do with #1-Across
40. Prefix meaning 'thought'
41. Glacial epoch for the creatures at #20-Across
44. __-dee... (Funny!)
45. Spring flower
46. Petrograd prohibitions
48. Little devil
51. You __ by Lionel Richie
52. Storms
54. Certain cold cut
56. Minus
59. Maritimes History: Its colours are blue, white and red ...and there's a gold star in the upper left corner: 2 wds.
61. Verify
62. Walking sticks
63. Scottish hymn: __ That Wilt Not Let Me Go
64. Time-saver's abbr.
65. Chirp
66. Sharp-__ (Like a knife)
67. Musical note before lah

DOWN
1. The Rubbles' baby, when doubled
2. Swedish furniture store
3. Region/drink in France
4. Not deviating from the subject matter: 2 wds.
5. Sixty minus twenty's answer
6. Ark builder's namesakes
7. Coastal birds
8. Scale amts.
9. Laverne & Shirley ...to Happy Days
10. Sympathy
11. Playwright Mr. Chekhov
12. Shorthand [abbr.]
13. Traditions
19. Ms. McTeer (Wife of 16th Prime Minister Joe Clark)
21. The __ (NYC opera attraction)
24. Inquire
26. Shawl
27. Transport via truck
28. Birth name of singer Fergie, __ Ann Ferguson
29. __ Lanka
32. The Waldorf=__ (Landmark hotel in New York)
33. Beamed
34. Glues and tapes
35. Tidy
36. Michael __ (Fashion designer)
38. Journalist's story origin
42. Nautical vision blurrer: 2 wds.
43. Set to be married
47. Nevertheless
48. "All I gotta do __ naturally...": Country tune bit
49. Beautiful bird
50. Carpentry tool
52. Record anew, as on a ship
53. Succulent plant
55. "Chick" suffix
56. St. John's locale [abbr.]
57. Disallow
58. Inscribe
60. San Francisco's __ Valley

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You are creative and artistic. (Aries is the sign of the artisan in the zodiac, which is why you can do anything with your hands.) Today you are full of amazing, original ideas!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Something having to do with your finances or your possessions is a bit unreliable today. Double-check all transactions. Postpone important purchases until tomorrow.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today the moon is in your sign; however, its influence is unpredictable. Therefore, keep a low profile and don't get excited about things. Tomorrow is a stronger day.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might kid yourself about knowing what you are doing today, when in fact you really don't. Therefore, postpone important decisions until tomorrow. If you must act, do it in the morning.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a great day to schmooze with others! Spontaneous social situations will arise suddenly. Someone you least expect might want to see you. (It's an interesting day).

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Relations with authority figures are unpredictable today. Whatever happens, you will want to be free of what they dictate. You don't want anyone telling you what to do today.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Travel plans will be interrupted or cancelled today. Alternatively, unexpected travel plans might arise. That's because today is a bit of a crapshoot.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If dealing with financial matters, especially with shared property, inheritances and such, make sure you have your facts right. Something unexpected could torpedo something.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be prepared to accommodate others today, because the moon is opposite your sign. Furthermore, it is dancing with Uranus, which means people are unpredictable. Keep your eyes open!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Allow yourself extra time at work today so that you have wiggle room to cope with something unexpected. Today will be full of shortages, delays and goofy mistakes.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a mildly accident-prone day for your kids, so be vigilant. Meanwhile, planned social events might change, while unexpected social events might occur.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your home routine will be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down, or something unexpected will occur. Just be aware of this so that you are prepared.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		3		4			9	
7			3			2		
	8				9			1
		8					4	
6								2
	9					3		
9			7				5	
		1			2			4
	3			9		8		

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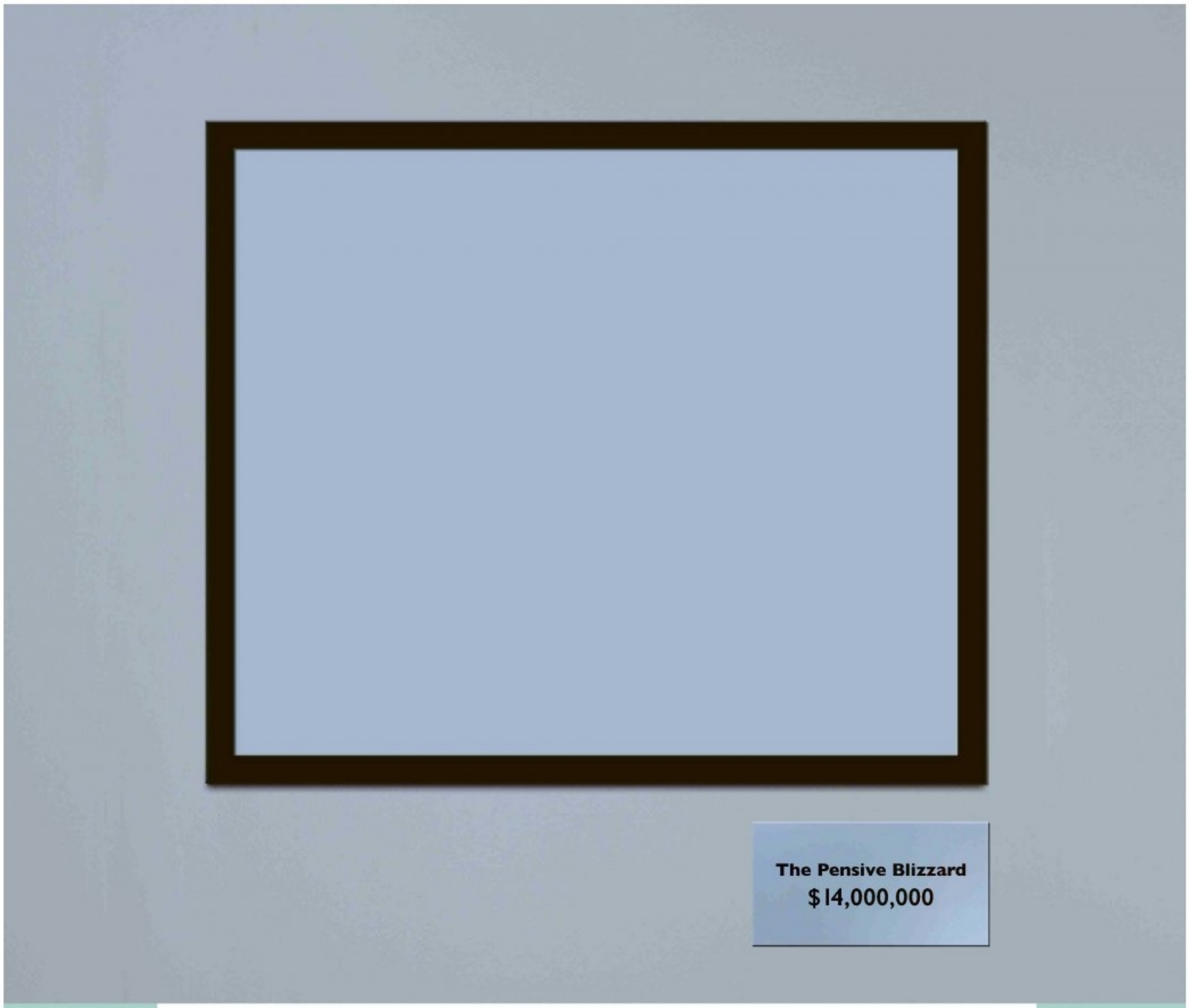
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

4	8	9	2	6	7	5	1	3
5	3	7	9	8	1	2	6	4
2	1	6	5	3	4	7	9	8
1	4	2	6	7	5	3	8	9
3	9	5	8	1	2	4	7	6
6	7	8	3	4	9	1	2	5
7	5	3	1	9	8	6	4	2
9	2	4	7	5	6	8	3	1
8	6	1	4	2	3	9	5	7



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